

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 NEA-10

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00

AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 140930Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, SU UR

SUBJ: SOVIET ECONOMIC/MILITARY ASSISTANCE DELEGATION

VISITS SUDAN

REF: A. STATE 005527; B. KHARTOUM 2766, DEC 13

1. SUMMARY: TALKS BETWEEN GOS AND SOVIET ECONOMIC/
MILITARY ASSISTANCE DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED IN KHARTOUM
DEC. 20 REPORTEDLY FOCUSED ON FINALIZING CERTAIN PROJECTS
AGREED TO SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF
AGREEMENT ON NEW PROJECTS OR NEW ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT
(BEYOND SPARE PARTS) AND EVEN SOME SUGGESTION GOS CONTINUING
TAKE FIRM, BASICALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC, ATTITUDE TOWARD PROFFERED
SOVIET AID. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING REPORT ON VISIT OF SOVIET ECONOMIC/MILITARY
ASSISTANCE DELEGATION TO SUDAN RESPONSIVE TO POINTS A. (1)
AND (4) IN PARA 2 REF A SETTING FORTH CURRENT INFO NEEDS OF
SPECIAL USIB HUMAN SOURCES COMMITTEE.

3. AS FORECAST REF B, MISADVENTURED SOVIET AID DELEGATION
FINALLY ARRIVED KHARTOUM DEC. 20. VISIT OF DELEGATION GIVEN
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CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE PUBLICITY IN LOCAL PRESS WITH INITIAL

MEETINGS LIKEWISE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY. AFTER FIRST SESSION FEATURING PREDICTABLE SPEECHES HEADS TWO DELEGATIONS (FOR GOS, MUHAMMED ABDEL MAJID, COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT; FOR SOVIETS, FNU SERGEIU, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SOVIET STATE APPARATUS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES,) TALKS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SUB-COMMITTEES- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, HEALTH AFFAIRS, GRAIN STORAGE AND MILITARY. LOCAL PRESS IN FOLLOWING DAYS CARRIED NON-SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF ALL BUT MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE AND DAILY "AL SAHAFA" ON DEC 29 HAD INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATION HEAD GIVING SOME INDICATION OF PROGRESS AT THAT POINT AND ASSERTING TEAM'S ROLE WAS TO "SOLVE SOME OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INVOLVING TWO COUNTRIES".

4. SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS ON DISCUSSIONS. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT MILITARY PORTION OF SOVIET DELEGATION HAS LEFT, HAVING CONCLUDED ITS TALKS, BUT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR EARLY JANUARY THAT ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS CONTINUING, WITH DELAY DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO ILLNESS OF ELDERLY SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD WHICH REQUIRED HIS HOSPITALIZATION, WHILE DELEGATION MAY NOW HAVE LEFT, NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE OR OTHER SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION HAS APPEARED. FOLLOWING ARE OUR NECESSARILY TENTATIVE IMPRESSIONS: (A) MILITARY--MINDEF INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT TALKS LIMITED TO DISCUSSION SUPPLY SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET EQUIPMENT NOW IN SUDANESE INVENTORY, AND STATED NO MAJOR NEW ITEMS EQUIPMENT BEING PROVIDED. THIS REPORT CONSISTENT WITH OTHER INDICATIONS OF CONTINUING GOS INTEREST IN MILITARY SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES; (B) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY--DISCUSSION APPARENTLY REMAINED FOCUSED ON SOVIET EXPLORATION/SURVEY EFFORT IN RED SEA HILLS WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR TWO YEARS WITH APPARENTLY LIMITED RESULTS. SOVDEL HEAD IN INTERVIEW SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT EFFORTS IN NEW AREAS SUCH AS PETROLEUM EXPLORATION; (C) HEALTH--AGREEMENT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN REACH FOR SOVIETS COMPLETE PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AGREED--I.E., HOSPITAL IN KHARTOUM AND SOME FIVE RURAL HEALTH CENTERS; (D) GRAIN STORAGE--AGAIN EXPANDING ON PREVIOUS EFFORTS WHICH INCLUDED CONSTRUCTION SILOS AT PORT SUDAN, SOVIETS HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED BUILD ADDITIONAL SILO FACILITIES UP COUNTRY.

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5. COMMENT:ALTHOUGH SOVDEL HEAD DURING INTERVIEW HINTED AT PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL, NEW PROJECTS ASSISTANCE IN SOME AREAS, HE WAS SHORT ON SPECIFICS AND IT OUR IMPRESSION THAT TALKS HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON COMPLETING RELATIVELY MINOR ASPECTS OF PROJECTS CONCEIVED IN HAPPIER DAYS GOS-SOVIET RELATIONS AND ASSURING FULL UTILIZATION OUTSTANDING CREDITS. MOREOVER, WE UNDER-

STAND FROM ONE SOURCE THAT, AT LEAST IN EARLY STAGES, SOVIET
AMBASSADOR QUITE UNHAPPY WITH PROGRESS OF TALKS, FEELING THAT
SUDANESE BEING DELIBERATELY DIFFICULT AND PLACING ONEROUS
CONDITIONS ON PROFFERED SOVIET ASSISTANCE. IF TRUE, FAILURE
COULD REFLECT SUDANESE RELUCTANCE RESUME TOO CLOSE ECONOMIC
TIES AS WELL AS SOVIET DESIRE MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN WORKING OUT
ANY NEW RELATIONSHIP.

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